

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, According to a 2003 report by the Centers for Disease Control, 16 percent of six million plus pregnancies in 1999 ended in either a miscarriage or a stillbirth, which totals nearly one million perinatal losses. Of those six million plus pregnancies, 27,937 of those births ended in infant deaths from 11 months and younger. This does not reflect the 21 percent who are lost to induced abortion; and,

Whereas, The availability of information and support is of the utmost importance to families who suffer from pregnancy and infant loss to better help them cope; and,

Whereas, A public that is informed and educated about pregnancy and infant loss can better learn how to respond with compassion to affected families; and,

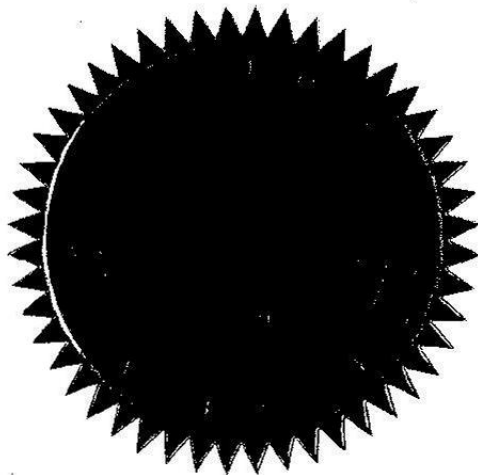
Whereas, Professionals who come in contact with families who have suffered pregnancy or infant loss, such as physicians, clergy, emergency medical technicians, funeral directors, police officers, nurses, and employers can better serve families if they have special training and better knowledge of pregnancy and infant loss; and,

Whereas, A Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, October 15, 2004, is set aside to remember all the pregnancies and infants lost in order to heal and be comforted in a time of pain and heartache and to give hope for the future:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2004, as

PREGNANCY & INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State